

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 823

By Reeves

A RESOLUTION to honor Wayne Arthur Coomes, Sr., of Marshall County on his lifetime of service.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Wayne Arthur Coomes, Sr., of Marshall County, a gallant veteran of the United States Marine Corps and a retired public servant who has rendered a lifetime of service to his fellow citizens and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, originally from Indiana, Wayne Arthur Coomes, Sr., relocated to Tennessee with his parents in 1956 and worked at Florence Stove Company before enrolling at Middle Tennessee State University, where he received his undergraduate degree in 1960; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation, Mr. Coomes embarked upon his distinguished thirty-year military career in the United States Marine Corps, during which time he commanded a platoon, three companies, and two battalions; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Marines, he served staff billets in military operations, military intelligence, and program development and personnel and spent four years in Southeast Asia between the years of 1965-1973, before retiring as the Deputy Commander of the Naval Intelligence Service Command; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coomes is a graduate of the Army Armor Officers Career Course, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia, and the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, returning to Lewisburg after retiring from military service, Wayne Arthur Coomes, Sr., continued his public service to his fellow citizens as Chief of the Lewisburg Police Department and Fire Department; he also served as director of the Marshall County Emergency Communications District; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his military service, Mr. Coomes was awarded numerous military decorations and commendations, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Combat "V," the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V," the Navy-Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon, two Presidential Unit Citation awards, and two Navy Unit Commendation awards; and

WHEREAS, a participant in a number of military and veterans' organizations, Mr. Coomes is a member of the Naval War College Alumni Association, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College Foundation, the Marine Corps Association, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Marshall County Veterans Outreach Program; and

WHEREAS, a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Lewisburg, where he serves as a deacon, Mr. Coomes has lent his time and talent to many civic and community organizations over the years, including the Kiwanis Club, which he served as president and vice president; the Board of Directors of the Lewisburg chapter of the Red Cross; the Chamber of Commerce; Relay for Life, which he served as committee chairman; and the Marshall County Republican Party, which he served as chairman; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he was honored as the Lewisburg Rotary Club's Senior Citizen of the Year in 2008 and the Lewisburg Elk Lodge's Citizen of the Year in 2017; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Wayne Coomes, Sr., enjoys the love and support of his wife, the former Patsy Stacey; his daughter and son-in-law, Lisa Coomes Greenwood and Paul Greenwood; his son, Art Coomes; his two grandchildren,

Caroline Greenwood Lembrick and Nathaniel Greenwood; and his two great-grandchildren, Raleigh Anne Lembrick and Madeleine Stacey Lembrick; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can properly relay our gratitude for his bravery and dedication to preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor Mr. Coomes to the full extent of our ability, as he made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Wayne Arthur Coomes, Sr., for his lifetime of distinguished service to our nation, the citizens of Marshall County, and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.